

41
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY.

Monday, Nov. 18th, 1918.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was held on the above date at 3:30 P. M. at 13 Central Avenue. Those present were: Dr. Lusk, Chairman who presided, Dr. W. H. Vail, president of the Society, Mrs. Eugene Gregory, Mr. Vandervall, Mr. C. M. Brown, Mrs. Venkinson, Miss ~~Allen~~ B. Pendleton, Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones of the National Urban League Among Negroes - New York City. Mrs. Little was also present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved after a slight correction by Dr. Lusk, The treasurer's report was read and ordered filed with the minutes. The treasurer also sent in a bill to Rocco Parlatore, the former owner of the house at 212 Bank Street for a water bill of \$11. It was suggested that Mr. Dusenberry be consulted as to this bill.

Dr. Lusk reports that as Chairman of the Committee of repairs at 212 Bank Street, the repairs on the first floor have been finished. Those also on the top floor are about completed and that when these are, it will about consume the balance of \$300. in Mr. Dusenberry's hands. The next question is as to whether a partition and window shall be placed in the third story similar to the one on the top story and another window put in the dark room. It was moved, seconded, and carried that Dr. Lusk kindly proceed with these repairs at his discretion.

Mrs. Gregory reported that the Phyllis Wheatley Literary Society is planning an entertainment on the 22d at eight o'clock in the hope of raising \$700. that will complete the payment of \$7000. on the house.

It was reported that Mrs. Shrubey has been engaged for one or two months as the matron of the Home. This is a tentative arrangement. The Secretary's report was then called for and Mr. Ashby sent in a written report and his apologies for not being able to be present, having been called away to Kearney ^{Pl.} ~~Headquarters~~. The Chairman asked the Secretary to read his suggestions which were ordered filed with the minutes.

With regard to Mr. Ashby's suggestions about renting the second floor, it was suggested that this matter could be finally

settled.

A discussion then followed as to the necessity of getting someone here as soon as possible to carry on the work of the League. Mr. Jones of the Urban League in New York, stated that in consultation with Mr. Ashby it was thought wise to get a woman. Mr. Jones knows of a lady who might possibly accept the position. Says she is capable and will carry on the work as well as a man. As to the question of salary it was suggested that we could not get a capable person for less than \$1500. a year. Mr. C. M. Brown objected to this and thought that a lower sum should be paid. After further discussion, several members of the Committee thought the matter should be considered at another meeting, but it was finally moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Jones be asked to communicate with the lady he has in mind as to whether she will accept a position here for \$1500. and that meanwhile the Chairman appoint a Committee of five to engage an associate secretary for the League.

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned.

Helen B. Pendleton

Secretary.

P.S.

Dr. Lusk, Chairman of the Committee appointed the following persons a Committee of five to secure an associate secretary.

Miss Helen B. Pendleton.

Mr. Alexander,

Mrs. Gregory,

Mr. Stewart,

Mrs. R. C. Jenkinson.

243

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE
NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE.

Monday, November 18, 1918.

Sept. 3rd to Nov. 18, 1918.

Balance Sept. 3rd, 1918	- - - - -	- \$454.13
Receipts Sept. 3rd to Nov. 18, 1918	- - - - -	- 278.90
		<u>\$733.03</u>

EXPENDITURES

Services:

Mr. Ashby	- - - - -	- \$33.00
Miss Harrison	- - - - -	- 84.00
		<u>\$117.00</u>

Telephone, carfare.	- - - - -	- 79.34
Postage, etc.	- - - - -	- 79.34

Contribution to Committee of		
Arrangements for Natl. Conf. of	- - - - -	- 10.00
Social Work.	- - - - -	- 206.34
		<u>\$305.34</u>
		<u>\$526.69</u>

244
COPY OF MR. ASHBY'S LETTER.

November 18, 1918.

Dr. Davis W. Lusk,
449 Mt. Prospect Ave.,
Newark, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:-

Will you be good enough to convey the following information to the Executive Committee at its meeting Monday afternoon, November 18th.

I asked that this meeting be called for I felt sure that I should be present to help in some way to suggest some partial solutions on the very grave matters which are now before the League, but a matter of importance takes me to Carney's Point, N.J., from which place I cannot possibly get back in time.

Two or three things that I want especially that the Committee keep in mind:

(1) That a worker is needed very badly but that absolute certainty of his ability must be assured. People have given some money; others will count it a rare privilege to do likewise if they see capable and honest persons using it and that their monetary investment is bringing adequate social returns. My opinion is that for the present at least, you want a worker rather than a money getter, money will come if work is shown. It has no right to be asked for otherwise.

(2) The relationship between the League and the Phyllis Wheatley Home Association must be clearly and unmistakably established. We must bear in mind that we are an affiliated organization of the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes and that both our program and our work must be bigger than a building or institutional matter. The Home is but one of the channels which can and will be, I daresay, means of reaching more effective social ends.

I shall be bold enough to say also, that I do not believe that the Home should be a place which the tenets of Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, or others elects should be apart of the program. Good moral, clear spirit and life, social conduct with an opportunity for young people to enjoy themselves as young people should, whether singing, dancing, or other forms of harmless

amusements under proper supervision, should be the end striven for. It is the spirit of the age that it should be so.

The place must be made use of by the community as much as possible. I hope some arrangements can be made by which the place will not be a family dwelling, a welfare office, a community center and a girl's home all in one. May the family dwelling idea be eliminated immediately. I say that for I understand there is some intention of keeping a family on the second floor. This is dangerous socially and has no economic value, for the rooms rented to individuals, would bring far better returns than a family of \$32. a month. Moreover, the office of the League should be first floor front so as the beauty and purpose of the Assembly room would not be spoiled.

(3) Work should be rushed so as to make occupancy possible very soon.

(4) I am very conscious of the awakening social consciousness and racial belief in the worth of his own social institutions among Negroes here.

One contribution from one of the colored men on our Board helps me to deepen that belief in ourselves. Our only possible drawback now would be an unwise step both as regards to the future policy of the League and also the Home. I believe contributors expected that the Building serve the colored people of the community as far as possible and that freedom and right social conduct be the two supreme motives.

I regret that I cannot be present to-day. Whether the cessation of the war will mean the end of my present employment with the Government, I cannot tell, just now. I probably will know soon. At all events, count on my whole hearted willingness to serve wither as an interested person, should the government continue to need my services, or probably as the Secretary of the League again should they want me to return in the event I am released, shall be interested in what is done at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William M. Ashby.

246
NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE

LEAGUE.

November 18, 1918, to December 17, 1918.

Balance November 18, 1918	\$526.69
Receipts Nov. 18th to Dec. 17, '18.	<u>56.00</u>
	\$582.69

Expenditures

Services

Miss Delia Harrison	\$48.00	
Chas. Onque (Janitor)	<u>6.90</u>	\$54.90

Telephone, carfare, postage etc.	24.48
-------------------------------------	-------

Rocco Parlators (chairs, tables etc.)	64.00
--	-------

Donation of \$10. from Mrs. Abercrombie, \$5.00 sent to Phyllis Wheatly Home. Assn.	<u>5.00 149.38</u>
	\$584.31